

REPUBLIC PICTURES

PRESENTS
**DRUMS OF
FU MANCHU**

CLIFFHANGER
ENDING

HENRY BRANDON
FU MANCHU

WILLIAM ROYLE
SIR NAYLAND SMITH

ROBERT KELLARD
ALLAN PARKER

GLORIA FRANKLIN
FAH LO SOEE

OLAF HYTTEN
DR. PETRIE

TOM CHATTERTON
PROFESSOR RANDOLPH

LUANA PETERS
MARY RANDOLPH

**RUTHLESS
DICTATORSHIP**

...CRUEL, INSIDIOUS IN
HIS MAD SCHEME
TO CONQUER ASIA!

DRUMS OF FU MANCHU

A REPUBLIC SERIAL
IN 15 CHAPTERS

CLIFFHANGER
ENDING

and ESCAPE
PICTORIAL

CAST

FEATURING

Fu Manchu.....Henry Brandon
Sir Denis Nayland Smith.....William Royle
Allan Parker.....Robert Kellard
Fah Lo Suee.....Gloria Franklin
Dr. Petrie.....Olaf Hytten
Prof. Edward Randolph.....Tom Chatterton
Mary Randolph.....Luana Walters

WITH

Sirdar Prahni.....Lal Chand Mehra
Dr. James Parker.....George Cleveland
Ezra Howard.....John Dilson
Loki [Dacoit 1].....John Merton
Professor Anderson.....Dwight Frye
Dr. Humphrey.....Wheaton Chambers
C. W. Crawford.....George Pembroke
Ranah Sang.....Guy D'Ennery

AND

Si Fan Chieftan.....Jamiel Hasson
Si Fan Chinese.....James B. Leong
Si Fan Hindu.....Tofik Mickey
Tartar Russian.....Robert Stevenson
Wally Winchester.....Norman Nesbitt
Lieutenant Wade.....Harry Strang
Sergeant.....Robert Blair
Blake.....Lowden Adams
Dr. Chang.....Philip Ahn
Lieutenant Corrigan.....Lee Shumway
Museum Heavy.....Ken Terrell
Cardo.....John Lester Johnson
Professor Krantz.....John Picorri
Airline Stewardess.....Jenifer Gray
Oriental Houseboy.....Kam Tong
Wilson.....John Ward
Native Messenger.....Paul Marion
Major Carlton.....Evan Thomas
Dangra.....John Bagni
Richards.....Eric Lansdale
Temple Priest.....Akim Dobrynin
Temple Guard 1.....Michael Vallon
Temple Guard 2.....Tony Paton
Tribesman 1.....Carl Sepulveda
Tribesman 2.....Jack Montgomery
Sentry 1.....John Meredith
Khandar.....Paul Renay
High Llama.....Joe De Stefani
Others: Dave Sharpe, Bob Woodward,
Hector Sarno.

DACOITS

2—Budd Buster	10—Jack Roper
3—Eddie Kaye	11—Vinegar Roan
4—James Flatley [Pegai]	12—Bill Wilkus
5—Alan Gregg	13—Tommy Coats
6—Duke Green	14—Frank Wayne
7—Art Dillard	15—Ted Wells
8—Al Taylor	16—Burt Dillard
9—Ernest Sarracino	17—Johnny Judd
[Dowlah Rao]	

FILE NOTES

Republic Serial No. 17—in 15 chapters.

Production No. 995

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Filming started.....December 22, 1939

Filming ended.....February 7, 1940

Total days to film.....48

National Release Date.....March 15, 1940

16mm footage [live].....9,699 feet

Total running time.....269:28

Chapter editing completed dates..[all 1940]

1 [2- 2], 2 [2- 9], 3 [2-19], 4 [2-29],

5 [3- 7], 6 [3-12], 7 [3-19], 8 [3-25],

9 [4- 1], 10 [4- 5], 11 [4-12], 12 [4-22],

13 [4-28], 14 [5- 3], 15 [5- 9].

MPPDA Approved Certificates..5883-5887,

5936-5938, 5946-5952.

Music credited to.....Cy Feuer

Compositions used, by: Cy Feuer [14],

Paul Sawtell [8], William Lava [5], Karl

Hajos [1].



An ingenious device. Invented by the Emperor Lo Tah Fy... a kindly soul and a great student of human nature. It is called the Seven Gates to Paradise. A body, let us say yours, Professor Randolph, is strapped in.



The first gate is opened and some of my small hungry friends are permitted to join my guest. I have had guests who have successfully passed three of the gates, but not one has ever come through the fourth.



Perhaps you will be more fortunate. Professor Randolph. I ask you to surrender the Dalai Plaque. If you refuse, you enter the first Gate to Paradise.



May you be the first of my guests to pass the Fourth Gate.



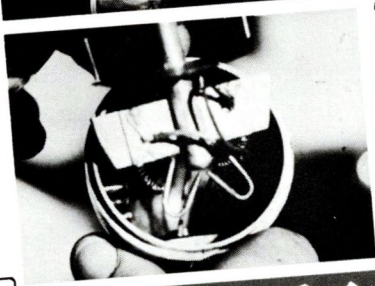
DRUMS OF FU MANCHU



**HORRENDOUS
TREACHERY BY
A SINISTER
ARCH-VILLAIN**
... A PILGRIMAGE OF
DIABOLICAL TERROR
TO THE LOST TOMB
OF GENGHIS KHAN!



The gelatinous dart was fired from this micro-telephone. There's a fine coil spring anchored to the diaphragm.



It was fired by the drums of Fu Manchu. The diaphragm acted as a trigger, and the sustained rhythm of the drums tripped it.



So you allowed the Dalai Plaque to fall into the hands of my enemy, Sir Nayland Smith.



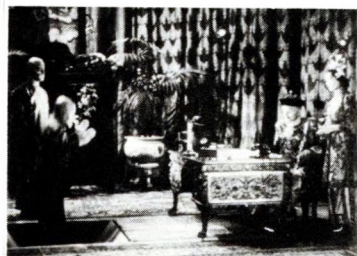
Illustrious One!



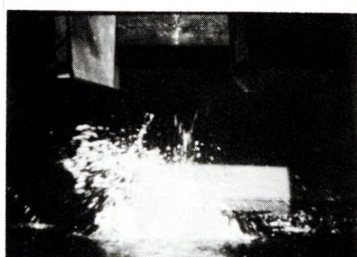
Silence!



You know the fate that awaits those who fail me.



Illustrious One!



[Splash]

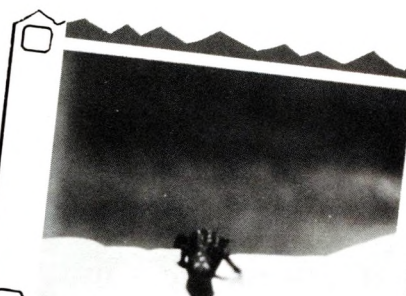


[Squor!]



Eeayyhh!

Fiction's most sinister villain, Doctor Fu Manchu, an Oriental bent on destroying the white race, was born from the pen of Sax Rohmer [Arthur Sarsfield Ward], who wrote thirteen books spanning nearly half a century. Republic Pictures based their chapterplay on six of these tomes—INSIDIOUS, RETURN OF, HAND OF, BRIDE OF, TRAIL OF and PRESIDENT—with the title for the serial being gleaned from a seventh volume, published in 1939, coinciding with production of the film. The Republic writers remained quite faithful to the books, particularly in the characterization of Fu Manchu himself as a ruthless but honorable man. Carried over to the film were Fu Manchu's evil daughter Fah Lo Suee, his "men of murder" the Dacoits—eerie, bald men all marked with a jagged forehead scar indicating where the Doctor had operated on them, removing a portion of the frontal lobe so that they are bereft of will power—and of course his nemesis, Sir Denis Nayland Smith and his assistant, Doctor Petrie. The only notable change evinced by the screenwriters was toward the two protagonists. Petrie was given almost nothing to do while Smith was depicted somewhat older and less agile than in the books, presumably to make way for the writers' own youthful creation, Allan Parker, to whom they assigned the bulk of the action. Directors William Witney and John English proved that they were as capable of handling actors as action—a field in which they had already demonstrated a remarkable ability. As with few other chapterplays, this film relied more on its storyline than on the usual slam-bang antics peculiar to the serial form; certainly a formula that could have proven quite deadly without such strong guiding talents behind the cameras. At 48 days, it was Republic's longest serial to film.



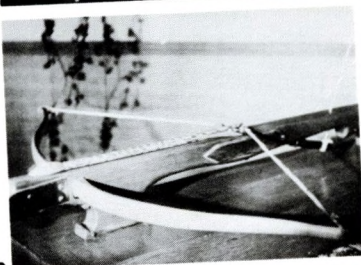
I encountered one of Fu Manchu's poisonous lizards some years ago in Burma.



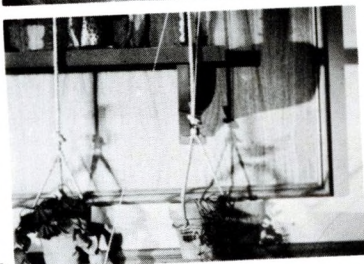
The scent on the pillow put me on my guard.



You force me into a most distasteful act.



Quite an ingenious device, don't you think, Doctor Chang?



As you can see, your life is literally hanging by a thread.



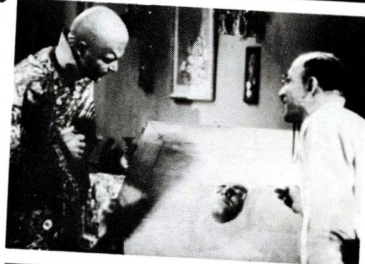
Loki, though usually most reliable when handling a knife, is not infallible.



An excellent specimen . . . racial lines not too pronounced.



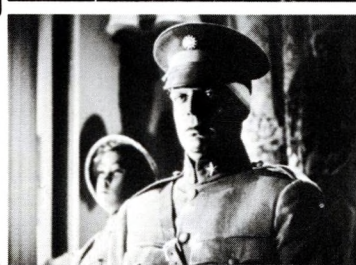
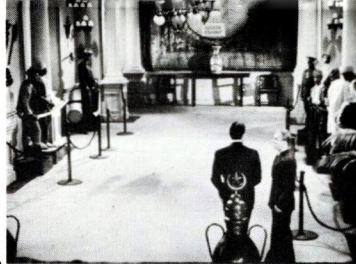
I shall not be long, Fu Manchú.



There! It is done.



My dear Parker . . . I'm sure I would be accepted even by Sir Nayland Smith now.



KARDAC SEGMENT



SACRED SCEPTRE

Late on a stormy California night, the raincoated figure of Scotland Yard's Sir Denis Nayland Smith, arch-foe of the sinister Doctor Fu Manchu, mounts the steps of a brownstone building. Loki, head of Fu Manchu's men of murder known as Dacoits, rises from the shadows and hurls a dagger. Smith falls to the doorway as the knife is imbedded next to a signboard bearing the name of Dr. Petrie, Smith's faithful colleague. Petrie admits Sir Nayland into his study and listens wide-eyed as a fantastic tale is unraveled. It is the Asian Holy Year and Ranah Sang, vicious leader of the Nihala Hills tribes, has ingrained his restless followers with the prophecy of the coming of a new leader. Fu Manchu intends to be that messiah and conquer all of Asia, annihilating anyone who does not bow to his will. Smith has tailed Ranah Sang to California where he is to attend a meeting of that most evil of secret organizations—the Si Fan. Fu Manchu outlines his domination plan, the key lying in possession of the Sacred Sceptre, which is in the lost tomb of Genghis Khan. Three clues are necessary to locate the tomb, the first of which, the Barton Scroll, is already in Fu Manchu's hands. Dr. James Parker holds the next link in the chain, the Dalai Plaque, and the Oriental plans to move against him next. The following day as Allan Parker, son of the archeologist, requests Smith's help in locating his abducted father, he receives a phone call from Miss Frisbie, secretary to radio gossip columnist Wally Winchester. They tune in his broadcast but, as Winchester is about to divulge the location of Allan's father, he is drowned out by the drums of Fu Manchu and cut off. Smith and police Lieutenant Wade find Winchester dead, killed by a gelatinous dart wired to the microphone diaphragm and triggered by the throbbing drum sound. The next stop is the Randolph Mongolian Foundation to question Professor Edward Randolph, long-time friend of the Parkers. During the discussion, Fah Lo Suee, Fu Manchu's cunning daughter, emerges from a mummy case and signals a Dacoit attack. A police sergeant is rendered unconscious by a Dacoit noose and confusion reigns until Blake. Randolph's assistant, discovers that the professor has been kidnapped. Winchester's notes are searched for a lead while Fu Manchu hosts a reunion between Parker and Randolph. Parker agrees to reveal the location of the Dalai Plaque when Randolph is forced by Dacoit 3 in the Seven Gates to Paradise, a fiendish box where seven hungry rats await. The Plaque is being brought from the Smithsonian Institute aboard the Sunrise Limited by Randolph's daughter, Mary. With this knowledge, Fu Manchu departs to see that proper preparations are made. Smith and Allan, locating the Chinatown hideout from Winchester's notes, battle the Dacoit guards and Parker is fatally stabbed after warning his son of Mary's danger. Smith flies Allan over the speeding passenger train and Allan drops on board from a rope ladder. He engages Dacoit 2, who has just stolen the Plaque and locked Mary in her compartment. They fight along the passageway of the observation car as another train, switched onto the same track, collides head-on with the Sunrise Limited.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

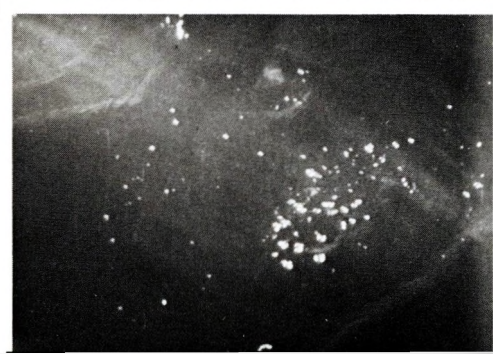
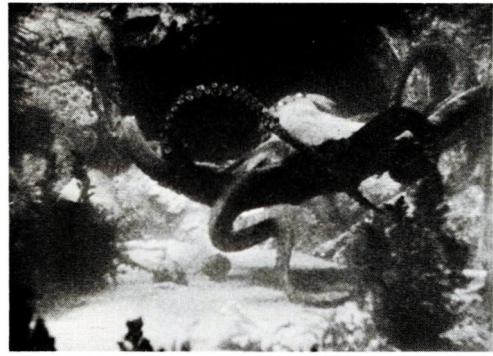


THE ESCAPE



Allan grabs the Dalai Plaque and flips Dacoit 2 from the observation platform. Hearing a whistle, he looks over the railing as the Sunrise Limited rounds a curve, sees the approaching train and, after freeing Mary, they jump to the roadbed seconds before the collision. Later, the unfortunate Dacoit pitifully begs forgiveness for losing the Plaque but Fu Manchu presses a hidden button and his sniveling servant plunges through a trap door. The Dacoit flounders momentarily in the water below, then screams horribly as an octopus drags him to his death. Fah Lo Suee comments all is not lost since the Plaque has yet to be translated. Her father quickly dispatches Dacoit 4, Pegai, to the Randolph Foundation where he climbs a vine to a second-floor window and holds a large wrist amulet toward the proceedings inside. Fu Manchu watches on the water mirror, a television-like device, as Allan, Smith, Petrie and Randolph discuss the Plaque. Allan catches sight of Pegai and captures him after a tussle. Pegai is handcuffed but manages to aim the amulet toward the group as a secret compartment containing a papyrus is found in the Plaque. Fu Manchu sees Randolph phone Dr. Humphrey for an appointment to translate the scroll and he sends his daughter to make an earlier visitation. Fah Lo Suee furtively exchanges cigarettes with Dr. Humphrey who, after taking a puff, is overcome by the Incense of Obedience. With Fu Manchu now his master, Humphrey is instructed to obtain the scroll and depart the building for a waiting car. When Allan and Randolph arrive, Humphrey excuses himself on the pretext of getting a blackboard. Deciding to lend a hand, Allan finds the door locked and from a window sees Humphrey entering a car below. Allan slides down a ladder and does a sitting jump on the running board as the sedan pulls away. He rides to the Clay Street hideout undetected and phones the location to Smith. Warding off Dacoits 6 and another as he enters through the basement, Allan soon confronts Humphrey and Fu Manchu. Humphrey is knocked out when he tries to attack Allan, who then advances toward the Oriental. The secret button is again depressed and Allan drops through the floor. The octopus tentacles entwine his legs, dragging him under. Soon, the flow of air bubbles ceases to rise.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



Fu Manchu closes the trap door and is about to relieve the unconscious Humphrey of the Dalai scroll when Fah Lo Suee spots Smith and Petrie coming toward the building. Father and daughter hastily retreat through a secret panel as Smith and Petrie enter. They try unsuccessfully to batter the panel door in when the splashing sound beneath the floorboards is heard. Smith finds the release button, shoots into the water at the octopus and Allan rises unharmed through the inky haze. Humphrey is returned to his office still suffering partial effects of the drug and is busily translating the scroll when Fu Manchu communicates with him by mental telepathy. Following orders, Humphrey requests that Mary go to the Mongolian Foundation for a Sixth Cuneiform Key. Allan accompanies her, only to find himself assaulted by Dacoits 5 and 7 while Mary is hustled into a limousine. Having been locked in a storeroom, Allan breaks out just in time to give chase, but is halted on a mountain road by the now vacant car blocking the path. A note under the windshield wiper instructs the Smith party to be at the Mongolian Foundation promptly at midnight if Mary is to be returned safely. Fu Manchu arrives at the stroke of twelve and dictates his terms: the Dalai scroll for Mary Randolph. Smith and Randolph consent, after a brief conference, and Allan accompanies Fu Manchu to a lonely airfield. Mary, locked in a rear compartment of the single-engine airplane, manages to impair the gas line as Allan and Fu Manchu board the craft. Once airborne, Fu Manchu orders Mary and Allan to don parachutes, fulfilling his obligation to release them once Allan has turned over the scroll. They are about to jump when the pilot, Dacoit 5, notices the erratic gas gauge. His master locates the spouting fuel line and angrily demands the parachutes. His honor to make a just bargain defiled, Fu Manchu and his pilot radio Fah Lo Suee to pick them up in Rocky Pass, then bail out, leaving Allan and Mary to suffer the fate prepared for him. With nothing but rugged terrain for miles in any direction, Allan desperately tries for a quick emergency landing as the fuel indicator strikes "Empty". The starved engine sputters, then dies and the plane glides toward some rocks, shears off a wing and crashes into the ground.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

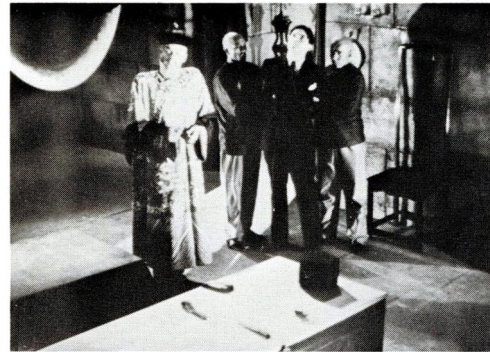


THE ESCAPE



Dazed but quickly recognizing the danger of the smoking wreck, Allan carries Mary to safety as the plane erupts in flames. The Dalai scroll secured, Fu Manchu conducts another Si Fan meeting at which the Tartar Russian reports the Asian tribesmen are now ripe for revolt. Fu Manchu indicates that the Sacred Sceptre will soon be his, but the Dalai scroll has shown another manuscript which must first be attained. Meanwhile, Smith and Randolph, having foreseen any eventuality, have translated a photostatic copy of the scroll and also discover the existence of an additional document. This paper is part of the Kelba Khan collection possessed by Dr. Chang, and Smith calls to warn the importer of its significance. Chang has barely completed the conversation when Fu Manchu and Loki enter the shop. Refusing to be intimidated, Chang is bound to a chair and an arrow cannon turned toward him. The trigger is attached to one of a row of hanging potted plants which Loki methodically begins to cut down with his knife. The doctor remains unswerving and the Dacoit is about to make the fatal throw when Smith and Allan arrive. Fu Manchu and Loki leave after wiring the arrow cannon to the door-knob, but Dacoit 5 precedes Smith and Allan into the room and is killed. Dr. Chang reveals that the Kelba Khan manuscript refers to an inscription in the Temple of the Blind Dragon that can only be translated with the Kardac Segment, a stone tablet belonging to an eccentric named Ezra Howard. Dacoit 10, eavesdropping at the window, jumps from a pile of boxes that topple over, alerting Smith who fires a shot, wounding the escapee. The dying Dacoit is spirited away by his cohorts, but Allan and Smith trail the car to a Chinatown hideout. Smith takes the back stairs while Allan enters the front door. He surprises Fu Manchu, who craftily steps on a floor button that drops a net on Allan. To extract information about the Kardac Segment from his unwilling subject, Fu Manchu has Allan strapped to a table which rises toward an oscillating blade suspended from the ceiling. Smith fights a Dacoit on the second floor landing and both plunge through a railing and land unconscious in the alley beneath. Inside, Allan is raised to the uppermost level as the giant knife sweeps into the death-dealing swing.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



Smith comes to, bursts in on the Poe-like scene and commands Dacoits 7 and 8 to halt the machinery and release Allan. This accomplished, 8 snaps off a light switch, plunging the dungeon into darkness. Fu Manchu and his men escape through a panel in a hail of bullets. Dacoit 9, Dowlah Rao, jumps Allan outside the building, but is quickly subdued and manacled in a car which Smith and Allan drive to the Randolph Foundation. While arrangements are made to obtain the Kardac Segment from Howard, the handcuffed but unattended Dowlah Rao radios his master from the car. Fu Manchu orders the Dacoit to leave the set in the transmitting position and later listens in on the conversation as Smith and Allan return to the limousine. Allan suddenly notices the microphone is open and, after exchanging knowing glances with Smith, they concoct a story that the altar stone is located at the Historical Museum. Allan entreats the curator, Professor Anderson, to wrap a dummy package and accompanies Lieutenant Corrigan and his policemen to the museum. In Anderson's office, Allan reveals the trick to keep Fu Manchu away from the Howard estate when the wrist amulet, supposedly on a lifeless statue, begins to glow. Fu Manchu watches the plot unfold on his water mirror and dispatches Dacoits to Howard's mansion. Allan prepares to leave when he and Anderson are suddenly attacked in the hallway by four Dacoits posing as wax figurines. Corrigan soon has the enemy in abeyance and Allan races to warn Smith after Anderson finds the missing statue in his office. Vivid flashes of lightning illuminate the lonely country estate as Smith argues tenaciously with the crotchety Howard for permission to take the Kardac Segment. Allan drives up in the pouring rain but, as he dashes across the grounds, he is brought down by a thuggee noose. Howard grudgingly consents to Smith's wishes as a gust of wind throws open a French window, admitting a Dacoit who kills Howard's servant, Cardo, and watchdog, Diablo, with a blowgun. The sound of the drums of Fu Manchu build to a crescendo as two more Dacoits pounce on Smith and Howard, knocking them out. The thunderstorm rises to its peak as Fu Manchu steps in, orders removal of the altar stone and smiles sardonically at the sight of human destruction before him.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

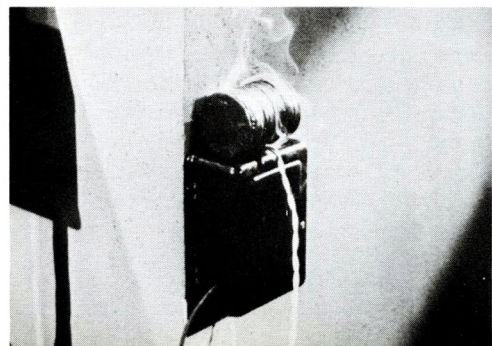
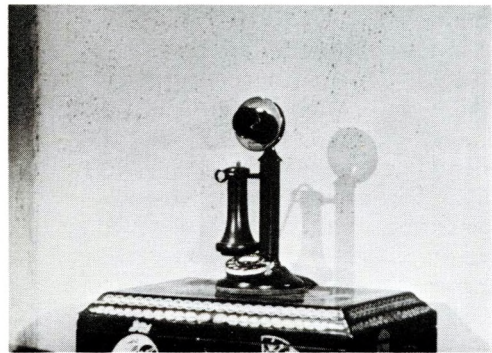
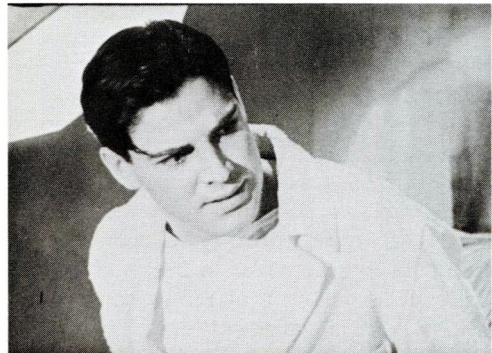


THE ESCAPE



Smith rapidly regains his senses, dashes to the French door and fires into the rain at the fleeing Dacoits. Dacoit 8 is hit and the Kardac Segment he is carrying drops to the wet earth at the base of a shrub. Fu Manchu orders Dacoit 7 to retrieve the altar stone and they escape as Allan and Smith converge at the shrubbery. Sir Nayland sees the Segment imprint in the mud and covers it with his coat prior to leaving for some plaster of paris to make a moulage. Randolph translates the reproduction and finds it to be the key to the lost tomb of Genghis Khan. The inscription is incomplete, however, and the tablet must first be inserted in an altar located somewhere in Central Asia to pinpoint the exact spot of the tomb. To insure that Fu Manchu does not get an opportunity to make use of the Kardac Segment, Smith throws out a dragnet, blocking all points of exit from the country. Fah Lo Suee phones her father from Central Airport with news of failure to charter a plane when she spots Allan, who is on patrol assignment there. Fu Manchu instructs his daughter to be sure that Allan sees her and to lead him to the Ferguson Street hideout. No sooner has Allan left his car to follow Fah Lo Suee in the near-deserted section of Chinatown than he is overcome by a group of Dacoits. Fu Manchu greets Professor Krantz, who immediately sets about making an exact rubber-mask likeness of Allan's face which he applies to the sinister Oriental. Taking Allan's clothes and mimicking his voice, Fu Manchu is now prepared to safely accompany his daughter out of the country. First, however, he attaches a bomb to the phone box which will detonate when the number is dialed. Back at Central Airport, Mary runs into Fu Manchu, whom she believes is Allan, and is handed a note to be delivered to Smith. The paper contains a phone number to be called at 3:30 p.m. and Smith, suspecting a trap since the message is not in Allan's handwriting, obtains the address from the telephone company. From a phone booth where they can see the building, Smith has Mary place the call. Allan, tied securely on a sofa, is startled at the sudden ringing and glances apprehensively over his shoulder as the infernal machine begins to smoke. Mary dials the final digit and Allan is blotted from view by the explosion.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



Fu Manchu has the stewardess place an air-to-ground call and, when she reports the line busy, he is sure his evil scheme has succeeded. But, at the last instant, Allan is able to pull the heavy sofa down over himself and is shielded from the blast. Smith and Mary rescue him and they return to Randolph, who has made further translation of the Kardac Segment. The tablet mentions the Temple of the Blind Dragon in the Nihala Hills and Smith surmises that Fu Manchu is headed for Branapuh, the only large settlement in the district. During a layover in Mexico, Fu Manchu receives a cable from the English Si Fan member, Crawford, stating that Allan and Smith are preparing to fly to the Orient on a Clipper Ship. Fu Manchu wires Crawford to take the same plane and arrange a fatal accident for his enemies. That night aboard the Clipper, Crawford's Oriental houseboy sprinkles an attracting agent on Smith's pillow and, when the investigator retires, slips a poisonous lizard under the door. Smith, noticing the scent, jumps the houseboy when the latter returns for the serpent. The servant is killed in the fight when he falls on the lizard and Crawford covers up by claiming he had just hired the boy. Smith is suspicious, however, and once in Branapuh he has Wilson of the British Consulate call in Crawford for a passport inspection. This gives Allan the chance to search the man's hotel room, where he finds a Si Fan amulet. Crawford returns unexpectedly and Allan knocks him out just as a native messenger appears at the door holding another amulet. Allan produces its mate and is led to the local Si Fan temple, where he garbs himself in the usual black cloak and hood attire and assumes a position at the meeting table. Fu Manchu enters and is about to reveal some new information regarding the Temple of the Blind Dragon when Crawford hurries in and slips him a note. Fu Manchu steps to Allan with a menacing dagger, but Allan swiftly whips out a gun and covers the startled group. Crawford lunges forward but is shot by Allan, who begins backing from the room realizing that he is outnumbered. Two Dacoit guards, alerted by the gunfire, position themselves with upraised swords on either side of the curtained anteroom doorway as Allan continues to step slowly backward to certain death.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



Smith, who has shadowed Crawford to the temple, enters the anteroom and guns down the Dacoits before they can murder Allan. Crawford, left for dead by Fu Manchu and his cohorts who have departed through a secret exit, is taken to Fort Branapuhr for questioning. When Major Carlton threatens him with the firing squad for inciting the natives, Crawford decides to cooperate and reveals that the Temple of the Blind Dragon is now called the Temple of the Sun. Randolph, arriving soon after by plane with Mary and Dr. Petrie, is so informed and is able to pinpoint the temple's location. Dangra, an Indian servant at the post, reports this information, and the plans for Allan and Smith to fly to the area, to Fu Manchu, who gives him a container of acid for application on the rudder cables of the airplane. That night, Allan and Smith are about to take off when they are called back by Carlton, who is reluctant to let them leave after receiving news that the natives have become increasingly hostile. Smith's argument with the Major is broken off by the sound of a revving plane motor as Richards, a sentry, bursts in to report Crawford's escape. They attempt to contact him by radio only to hear Fu Manchu bid farewell to Allan and Smith, whom he believes to be in the aircraft. Crawford is terror-stricken as the acid-weakened cables snap and the plane screams to earth and explodes. Carlton now relents and assigns to Smith and Allan a car and two of his men when Allan, suddenly aware of Dangra spying on them from a window, gives chase. After Dangra relays the latest happenings to Loki, he runs to assist a Dacoit, who has been keeping Allan busy. The Dacoit flings a knife at Allan, who ducks, but the flying weapon finally strikes another target, and Dangra falls, mortally wounded. Feeling secure that the traitor has not passed on their itinerary to anyone, Allan and Smith set out on their dangerous mission. But Fu Manchu has sent word to the various tribal leaders, and the government car has barely crossed the border into the Nihala Hills when it is set upon by a group of horsemen. Two of the tribesmen transfer to the convertible and fight with Smith and Allan in the back seat. Smith strives to wrest a gun from his adversary when it discharges, killing the driver. As Smith turns and looks ahead, the vehicle careens off a cliff.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

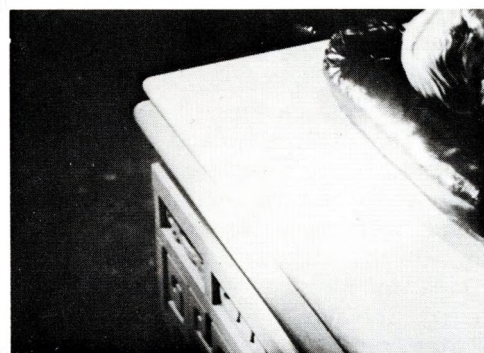


THE ESCAPE



Smith shouts a warning, and he and Allan jump out as the car goes over the embankment. They later join Randolph, Petrie and Mary along the road and, while Allan and Mary search for a campsite, the other three continue on to the Temple. Locating a good spot, Allan dispatches Mary for water, but as time passes and she does not return, Allan follows a trail of footprints that lead to Fu Manchu's camp, where the girl has been hypnotized to do his bidding. Edging closer to the camp, Allan is attacked by Dacoits 11, 12 and 13. He is about to gain the upper hand with a gun when a knife pierces his sleeve, pinning his arm to a tree. Prior to departing for the Temple with Mary, Fu Manchu and Loki arrange for Allan's "entertainment." A tall tree is bent to the ground and secured with rope under which a fire is ignited. Allan, tied up on the ground with his legs roped to the tree, watches Fu Manchu depart, then frantically rubs his wrist thongs on a sharp rock. They break, and he cuts the leg lariat as the burning strands of the holding cable part and the tree snaps erect. Smith, Petrie and Randolph have been welcomed at the Temple of the Sun by Sirdar Prahni, who allows them to place the Kardac Segment mouldage in the vacant altar space. Randolph copies down the now-complete directions to Genghis Khan's tomb while Prahni puzzles over the fact that Kardac has not spoken, according to legend, when Fu Manchu enters, breaks the plaster imitation and replaces it with the genuine Segment. Fah Lo Suee, concealed behind the altar, provides the voice for the idol and demands a sacrifice since the holy shrine has been defiled by the white people. Smith, held captive with his companions by the Dacoits, tries unsuccessfully to explain this treachery to Sirdar Prahni when Mary enters the room in a trance. They watch horrified as she lies down on the altar and a giant crystal above her head, fed by an arrangement of mirrors set by the Temple Priest atop the cavern, begins throwing a highly concentrated light beam. The ray descends across the facade of Kardac, exploding small bronze figurines in its path with its intense heat. Her father and friends powerless to help, the beam moves inexorably toward Mary's reclining form until there is a blinding flash of light that signals her doom.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

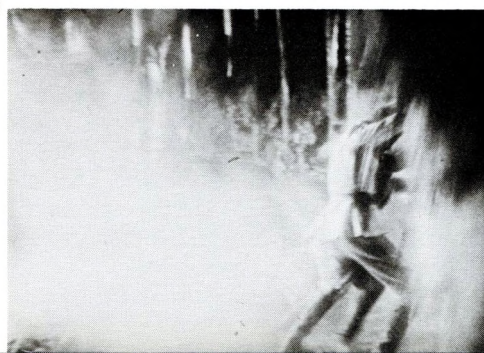


THE ESCAPE



Allan, quickly overcoming Temple Guards 1 and 2 in an outer alcove, bursts in and fires a rifle shot at the crystal, shattering it and saving Mary's life. In the ensuing confusion, Smith apprehends Fah Lo Suee, exposing Fu Manchu's plan. Sirdar Prahni orders the Oriental seized, but Fu Manchu breaks several gas bombs on the floor allowing himself, his daughter and the Dacoits to escape. They drive a short distance, then Dacoit 14 is sent to the top of the Temple cave, where he lowers a wireless microphone through an opening. Fu Manchu listens on his car radio as Randolph translates the altar stone inscription. After hearing that the tomb is entered through a Sun God bas-relief door located in Dragon Gorge, the Fu Manchu party drives off, unaware of the Segment's sinister postscript prophesying death to those who enter. Trekking on foot along the Dragon Gorge trail, Dacoit 11 is killed when he trips on a vine, discharging a hilltop spear gun. The trap is reset as Loki finds the door and the group proceeds into the tomb. Unaware they have been preceded, Smith and Allan arrive and Smith, startled at the sight of a skull pierced by an arrow, slips and falls on the hidden vine. The spears sail over his head as Allan runs up and they follow the direction of the arrow to the tomb. Fu Manchu has had a statue marking the Genghis Khan cavern moved to the opening of a blind tunnel and, when Smith and Allan take this direction, Dacoits 12, 13 and 14 hurriedly start to seal the passage with large rocks. Allan hears the noise and with Smith rushes back in time to break out and engage the Dacoits. Dacoit 12 is shot in the fight and 14 races to tell his master that they have been discovered. Entering the cavern in haste, he inadvertently knocks over a big vase that clatters noisily to the floor. The sound vibrations crack several stalactites loose from the ceiling which fall around Fu Manchu and Loki, who run into a side cave as Allan and Smith enter the central chamber. In the weird light of a hand-held torch, Fu Manchu closes his eyes in a trance and the drums begin to beat. The ceiling rock formations begin to drop as the sound increases. Smith and Allan, trying to get out, are blocked when a huge idol falls across their path and the entire roof thunders down on them.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

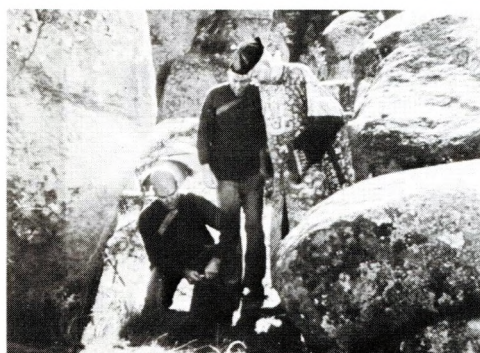


THE ESCAPE



Allan dives for the shelter of the idol and Smith is merely clipped by a fragment of rock. Fu Manchu and Loki re-enter the room and find themselves held at bay by Allan who, in turn, is set upon by Dacoit 14. Loki leaves as Smith clubs the other Dacoit and covers Fu Manchu. The door to Genghis Khan's tomb is opened, and Allan goes in after the Sacred Sceptre. As he opens the Sceptre box, the step on which he is standing slowly begins to sink and the door slams shut. Fu Manchu smashes the door release lever and is marched out by Smith, who resolves to go for help. Allan is rapidly being overcome by fumes emanating from around the sarcophagus when he falls against a section of wall that springs open to an escape passage. He exits the cave with the incased Sceptre, jumping into a lake from a high ledge, while out front Smith has the gun jerked from his hand when Dacoit 13 drops a noose from above. Allan returns to the scene and knocks out Loki and the Dacoit, once again ensuring the custody of Fu Manchu. It is decided that Allan will drop off Smith and Fu Manchu at the Temple, then proceed to Branapuh for help. The Dacoit overhears these plans and, when the others leave, he darts away to apprise Fah Lo Suee. With Allan gone for the soldiers, the Smith party is biding time at the Temple when Loki gains admittance to the cave disguised as a guard, covers the group with a rifle and unties his master, who appropriates the Sceptre. Smith and the others are locked in a room and Fu Manchu tells Loki to drive to the camp and return with a supply of explosives. Allan, barreling along in a station wagon, is forced to stop at a tree blockade across the road. Getting out to investigate, he is captured by Dacoits 13 and 15 and told by Fah Lo Suee that she intends to exchange him for her father. The car is headed back for the Temple as Fu Manchu. Loki and Dacoit 14, unaware of these new developments, plant a box of dynamite in the road. This job completed, they hide themselves in a position above the road as the wagon approaches. Fu Manchu, believing the vehicle contains Allan and a contingent of soldiers, awaits the proper moment, then signals Loki to depress the plunger. There is a terrific detonation, and the station wagon is catapulted from the road.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

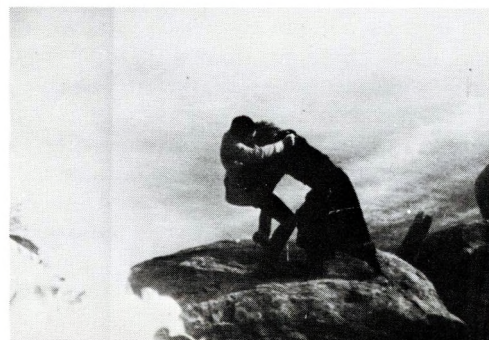
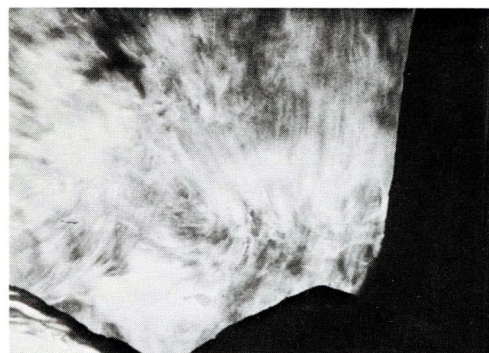
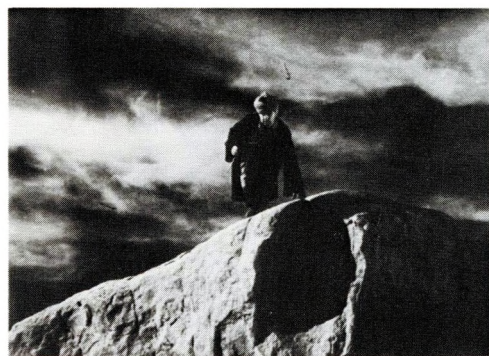


THE ESCAPE



The vehicle comes to rest on its side at the bottom of a gentle slope and Allan groggily squirms his way out through the tailgate window as Fu Manchu drives up. Allan dodges around some bushes unseen while the grief-stricken Fu Manchu, seeing what his vengeful plan has wrought, directs Loki to retrieve the form of Fah Lo Suee from the wreck. Allan picks his way to Fu Manchu's station wagon and is about to grab the Sceptre case from the back seat when the Orientals return, forcing him to seek hasty cover under the tarpaulin of a small trailer attached to the wagon. Once in Fu Manchu's camp, Allan socks Dacoit 15, snatches the Sceptre away from him and drives off in the station wagon. Jumping onto the running board, Dacoit 14 stabs viciously with his knife but is pushed off as another dagger imbeds itself in the door post. Allan whirls around and, spotting Dacoit 13 clinging to the trailer, makes a series of violent turns that unhitch the trailer, sending it rolling free across the flatlands. That night, an angry Fu Manchu discusses the loss of the Sacred Sceptre with his visibly disappointed Si Fan Chieftain. Realizing that Smith and his companions will have to cross the Nihala Hills to reach Fort Branapuhr, Fu Manchu instructs the Chieftain to alert the obedient local warriors for action. Night has fallen when Allan returns to the Temple of the Sun and releases Smith and the others from their prison. They pile into the station wagon and roar off in an effort to reach civilization unmolested, but they have hardly gotten underway when a band of hostile natives opens fire at a canyon crossroads. The vehicle makes it through, however, and travel becomes less impeded until a final native outpost, marked by a signal beacon, is neared. Allan and Smith scout ahead on foot to the top of a ridge and, just when everything appears safe to proceed, Allan spots a group of hillmen climbing the gorge toward their position. He tells Sir Nayland to drive to safety while he pries the stack of burning logs with a length of timber. The blazing beacon collapses and crashes into the midst of the screaming natives as a lone hillman leaps on Allan from an overhanging rock. The two men exchange vicious blows until, locked in a clinch, they topple from the ridge into the inferno.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

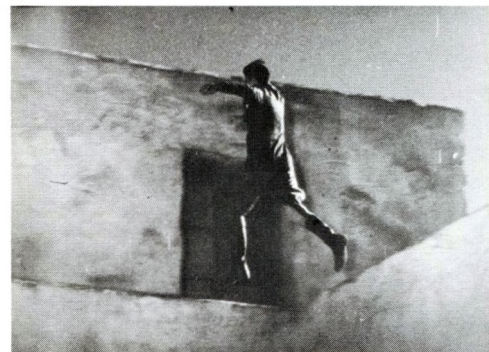
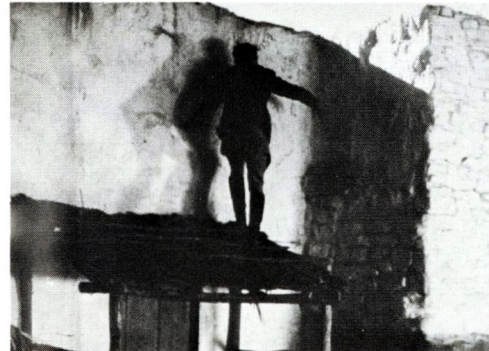


THE ESCAPE



Allan grasps a rock shelf and hoists himself back to the rim as the native alone drops into the raging pyre. As Carlton enthuses over the Sceptre's recovery, Smith warns him the job is incomplete until it is in the hands of the High Lhama, who can use it to halt the widespread revolt. Fu Manchu, tapping the telegraph wires, listens to Carlton's transmission requesting the High Lhama's presence at the Fort. With the reply that an emissary will be sent in the Lhama's stead, the Si Fan Chieftain and Tribesmen 1 and 2 ride off to intercept him. The emissary is bulldogged from his horse and hauled off to Fu Manchu's camp, where the Oriental creates a facial likeness with makeup, takes the representative's clothes and papers and drives to the Fort, where he passes himself off as Emissary Koomerow. Once shown the Sceptre, Fu Manchu is eager to depart, but Carlton insists he stay for refreshments while an escort is assembled. Left alone with the two tribesmen who accompanied him, Fu Manchu decides to tarry no longer and, after the natives choke a sentry with a Dacoit noose, he reveals his true identity to the Major, whom he locks in a closet. Allan fights with the tribesmen in the hall as Fu Manchu, Sceptre case in hand, crashes through the guard gate in his car. Allan releases the Major and they have just heard Sentry 1's report of the escape when Randolph appears, holding the Sceptre which he had borrowed to photograph. Finding the box empty, Fu Manchu becomes grimly determined and, that night, he dispatches Dacoit 15 to the Fort disguised as a native hay wagon driver. Using a blow gun, the Dacoit kills the stockade guard and releases the tribesmen, who assist him in cracking the Fort safe. Smith, Randolph, Allan and Carlton are discussing disposition of the Sceptre when a bugle call signals the finding of the dead guard. Everyone hurries outside to search for the intruders and Allan spies them as they pick their way along the shadowy buildings and up onto the roof. He pursues as a commander, spotting the darkened figures from the ground, orders his gunner to open fire. Tribesmen 2 is hit as Allan, rounding the same rooftop corner, is mistaken for a fugitive. The machine gun chatters and Allan drops onto a lean-to.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING

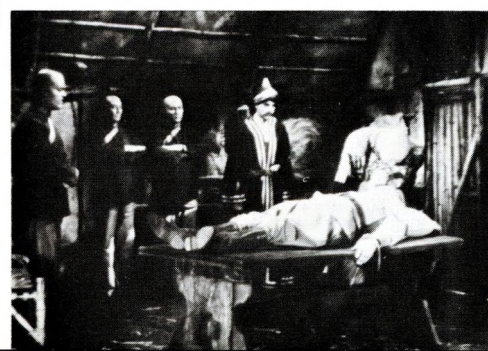
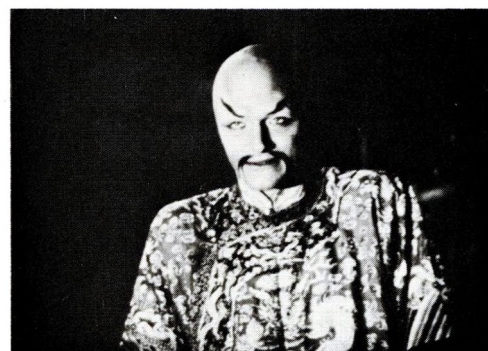


THE ESCAPE



Allan glimpses the gunner about to shoot and falls purposely on the lean-to, avoiding the volley. Tribesman 1 escapes with the Sceptre while the Dacoit, who has been wounded, limps feverishly away on foot. He is about to be captured when Smith intervenes, reasoning that more will be gained by following the man. The trail leads to the Branapuhr Si Fan Temple where Smith and Allan, after sending an accompanying soldier back for help, overcome a Dacoit guard and enter the building. Allan is boosted to a transom where he sees the Si Fan members quizzing the injured Dacoit and he and Smith are about to break in when three more Dacoits appear in the hall. Smith fields a thrown knife with a chair and the attack is beaten off as troops from the Fort arrive to take custody of the Si Fan. Back at the Fort, Carlton points out that his men are guarding all passes and Fu Manchu is sealed off in the hills. To rout him from hiding, Smith and Allan contact Khandar, a friendly tribal chief who, with his followers, locates and invades Fu Manchu's camp. But, being the Holy Year and finding Fu Manchu the possessor of the Sacred Sceptre, they immediately switch their allegiance. Later, keeping a prearranged meeting with Khandar, who informs them that Fu Manchu has been captured, Smith and Allan eagerly head for the Tartar village, only to be jumped by Dacoits when they ride through the gates. They manage to turn their horses and flee back along the trail but, with a pack of tribesmen closing in, Smith shouts to his companion to separate. Taking divergent trails, Allan falls from his mount when a native fires at him with a rifle while Smith is bulldogged from the saddle and returned to the enemy encampment. With great relish, Fu Manchu tells Smith that he will be transformed into a Dacoit and then guide his new master safely from the heavily guarded hills. While Loki and Dacoits 16 and 17 hold the futilely struggling Smith on the operating table, Fu Manchu clamps an ether cone to his face. Loki releases his grip as the kicking ceases and Fu Manchu, after fastidiously washing his hands, takes up a scalpel. Malevolently intoning "Sir Nayland Smith—Dacoit slave of Fu Manchu!" the sinister Oriental bends over his protagonist and prepares to make the initial frontal incision.

THE CLIFFHANGER ENDING



THE ESCAPE



Allan, having intentionally dropped from his horse, sneaks into the village, knocks out a Tartar and steals his burnoose. Palming a bottle of quinine from his saddlebag, he enters the hut at the crucial moment and holds the vial of clear liquid in the air, claiming it is nitroglycerine. Fu Manchu and his men shrink back while Allan tries to revive Sir Nayland. Smith groggily flails his arms in the direction of the bottle, however, jarring the fake explosive container from Allan's hand and the Dacoits make their move as it shatters harmlessly on the floor. A Bunsen burner is upset in the melee and the grass walls catch fire as Fu Manchu, then Smith and Allan depart in different directions. When the latter two escape on horseback, Khandar frets that an entire English regiment will swoop down on the village, but Fu Manchu orders him to assemble an ambush in Ranghi Pass with all available warriors and to look to the skies for a sign. While Smith heads for the Fort, Allan remains under cover in the hills where, by nightfall, he learns of the ambush and races off to warn the troops. Fu Manchu holds the Sceptre in front of a searchlight on his station wagon, projecting against the sky an immense silhouette of the symbol, which whips the hillmen into a frenzy. Allan heads off the cavalry at the mouth of Ranghi Pass just as the shooting begins, but Carlton fears they are heavily outnumbered. His men are being methodically wiped out in the frenetic battle as Allan and Smith grimly spur their horses toward the source of the light beam. They rein up on a knoll overlooking Fu Manchu's position and Allan shatters the searchlight with a burst of rifle fire. Their symbol gone, the natives cease all hostilities as Smith and Allan shoot Dacoits 16 and 17. Loki also takes a bullet, crashing to the ground while his master roars off in the station wagon. Allan cuts across the ridge, leaps onto the roof and jumps down on the running board. Fu Manchu whips out an automatic, but loses control of the vehicle, which rolls off a cliff as Allan leaps to safety. The High Lhama praises Smith and his friends for delivering the Sceptre from the hands of the false prophet while, in Genghis Khan's tomb, an only slightly injured Fu Manchu makes a pledge over the sarcophagus that there will dawn another day when his forces will sweep on to victory.

THE MOMENTOUS FINALE



From the pages of fiction
steps the most sinister figure
of all time — — Fu Manchu!

Schooled in the ancient mys-
teries of the Orient, he is
as modern as Tomorrow!

Ruthless, ageless, holding
himself above human law,
he embarks upon his most
stupendous crime — — the
conquest of Asia!

And with him comes the thun-
der of his summons to death
—the drums of Fu Manchu!



DRUMS OF FU MANCHU

